



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

COPY MAILED

NOV 25 2009

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. BOX 828
BLOOMFIELD HILLS MI 48303

In re Patent No. 7,515,990	:	
Sato et al.	:	DECISION DISMISSING
Application No. 10/532,157	:	REQUEST FOR
Issue Date: April 7, 2009	:	RECONSIDERATION OF
Filed: April 20, 2005	:	PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT
Docket No. 5077-000234/NP	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.705

This is in response to the PETITION UNDER RULE 1.705, filed April 14, 2009. Patentees request that the determination of patent term adjustment be corrected from seven hundred ninety-eight (798) days to one thousand one hundred fifty (1150) days.

The request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment is DISMISSED with respect to making any change in the patent term adjustment determination under 35 U.S.C. § 154(b) of 798 days.

On April 7, 2009, the application matured into U.S. Patent No. 7,515,990, with a revised patent term adjustment of 798 days. The Office determined that the 352 days of Office delay pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) and 37 CFR 1.702(b) overlaps with the 798 days of Office delay pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 154(b)(1)(A) and 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1) accorded prior to the issuance of the patent. As such, no additional days of patent term adjustment were entered at issuance under the three-year pendency provision. Given the applicant delay of 0 days, the patent issued with a revised patent term adjustment of 798 (798 - 0) days.

On April 14, 2009, patentees timely submitted this request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment, asserting that the correct number of days of Patent Term Adjustment is 1150 days under the court's interpretation of the overlap provision as set

forth in Wyeth v. Dudas, 580 F. Supp. 2d 138, 88 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1538 (D.D.C. 2008).

Specifically, patentees assert:

Pursuant to the ruling in *Wyeth v. Dudas* (DC Sept. 2008), Applicant hereby petitions under Rule 1.705 for a corrected Patent Term Adjustment of an additional 352 days since the present Patent did not issue within 36 months of the filing date, namely, by April 20, 2008. The corrected Patent Term Adjustment should now equal 1150 days.

Petition filed 04/14/09, p. 1.

Patentees' interpretation of the period of overlap has been considered, but found inconsistent with the Office's interpretation of the overlap provision, 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A). 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A) limits the adjustment of patent term, as follows:

to the extent that the periods of delay attributable to grounds specified in paragraph (1) overlap, the period of any adjustment granted under this subsection shall not exceed the actual number of days the issuance of the patent was delayed.

As explained in *Explanation of 37 CFR 1.703(f) and of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Interpretation of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A)*, 69 Fed. Reg. 34283 (June 21, 2004), the Office interprets 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A) as permitting either patent term adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A)(i)-(iv), or patent term adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), but not as permitting patent term adjustment under both 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A)(i)-(iv) and 154(b)(1)(B). Accordingly, the Office implements the overlap provision as follows:

If an application is entitled to an adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), the entire period during which the application was pending (except for periods excluded under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iii)), and not just the period beginning three years after the actual filing date of the application, is the period of delay under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) in determining whether periods of delay overlap under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A). Thus, any days of

delay for Office issuance of the patent more than 3 years after the filing date of the application, which overlap with the days of patent term adjustment accorded prior to the issuance of the patent will not result in any additional patent term adjustment. See 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A), and 37 CFR § 1.703(f). See *Changes to Implement Patent Term Adjustment Under Twenty Year Term; Final Rule*, 65 Fed. Reg. 56366 (Sept. 18, 2000). See also *Revision of Patent Term Extension and Patent Term Adjustment Provisions; Final Rule*, 69 Fed. Reg. 21704 (April 22, 2004), 1282 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 100 (May 18, 2004). See also *Explanation of 37 CFR 1.703(f) and of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Interpretation of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A)*, 69 Fed. Reg. 34283 (June 21, 2004).

Further, as stated in the *Explanation of 37 CFR 1.703(f) and of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Interpretation of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A)*, the Office has consistently taken the position that if an application is entitled to an adjustment under the three-year pendency provision of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), the entire period during which the application was pending before the Office (except for periods excluded under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iii)), and not just the period beginning three years after the actual filing date of the application, is the relevant period under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) in determining whether periods of delay "overlap" under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A).

This interpretation is consistent with the statute. Taken together the statute and rule provide that to the extent that periods of delay attributable to grounds specified in 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1) and in corresponding §1.702 overlap, the period of adjustment granted shall not exceed the actual number of days the issuance of the patent was delayed.

In this instance, the relevant period under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) in determining whether periods of delay "overlap" under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A) is the period during which the application was pending before the Office beginning on the application filing date under 35 U.S.C. 111(a), April 20, 2005, and ending on the date of issuance of the patent, April 7, 2009 (not including any other periods excluded under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iii)).

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A) and 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1), 798 days of patent term adjustment were accorded during the pendency of the application for Office delay. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) and 37 CFR 1.702(b), 352 days of patent term adjustment accrued for Office issuance of the patent more than 3 years after the filing date of the application.

The 352 days of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(b) overlap with the 798 days of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1). Entry of both the 798 days and the 352 days is neither permitted nor warranted. 798 days is the actual number of days issuance of the patent was delayed.

Accordingly, at issuance, the Office properly entered no additional days of adjustment pursuant to § 1.702(b) for a total of the greater period of 798 days for Office delay.

In view thereof, no change will be made in the patent term adjustment of 798 days (798 days of Office delay - 0 days of applicant delay).

The Office acknowledges the submission of the \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e). No additional fees are required.

Telephone inquiries specific to this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211.

Christina Tartera Donnell

Christina Tartera Donnell
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions